



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: December 15-19, 2025

Workshop

December 16, 2025

Legal counsel facilitated a workshop with the Band Assembly regarding a discussion about the Department of Natural Resources lease resolutions, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures lease with Gaming Regulatory Authority, payment to the WEX workers bill, home renovation policy resolution, Tribal Employment Rights Office bill, Commissioner of Administration nomination, Corporate Commissioner nomination, and nomination to investment board.

Weekly Sync Meeting

December 16, 2025

Legislative staff facilitated a weekly sync meeting with elected officials and staff to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda. The meeting included discussion on bills to work on, the workshop schedule, workshop projects, and District Representative initiatives.

Tribal Executive Committee Special Meeting

December 16, 2025

Elected Officials and Legislative staff attended the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive special meeting.

Band Assembly Meeting

December 17, 2025

The Speaker of the Assembly convened a meeting of the Band Assembly. The District Representatives amended and approved the agenda.

Band Assembly conducted a confirmation hearing for Julie Dunkley Ziegler, nominee for Commissioner of Corporate Affairs.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-62-25 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revision(s)/transfer(s) for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2025 and September 30, 2026. Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-73-25 (A Resolution approving the continuance of the fiscal operations of the Mille Lacs Band Government, Circle of Health, Gaming Regulatory Authority, Department of Cannabis Regulation, Department of Athletic Regulation, Supplemental Income Program for Elders, Tribal Employment Rights Office, Housing Initiative, and Band Member Legal Services until January 31, 2026). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-74-25 (The Fifty-First Resolution approving the continuance of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures' Gaming and Non-Gaming fiscal operations). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-75-25 (A Resolution to cancel a Residential lease authorized by Resolution 12-03-63-07 for Mille Lacs Band Member #410B6359). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-76-25 (A Resolution authorizing a land lease with attached mortgage for residential purposes to Mille Lacs Band Member #410B6359). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved a contract with Holden Electric Company Inc., to supply and install new lighting control at Wewinabi.

The District Representatives tabled a contract addendum with Julie Yaekel-Black to increase the contract to continue providing mental health services through the rest of the school year.

The District Representatives approved a contract with B.A.T. Entertainment to provide high quality audio and video managing live visual displays, ensuring seamless broadcast experience for both in person and virtual attendees of the State of the Band Address at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Lakeview Behavioral Health to provide clinical supervision and leadership for the alcohol and drug counselors and interns.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Lakeview Behavioral Health to provide mental health professional and psychiatric services at HHS Facilities in Districts I, II, III, and Four Winds.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Jane Hauer to provide pharmacist relief services at the Ne Ia Shing Pharmacy.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Citon Computer Corporation to maintain I.T. management and security best practices, upgrade Food Distribution network, main clinic wireless replacement, disaster recovery plan, women's shelter plan, and email encryption migration.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Minnesota Pump Works Inc., for emergency repairs to Eddy's Lift Station.

The District Representatives approved a lease agreement with MLCV Corporate Office Building for office space at both Mille Lacs and Hinckley.

The District Representatives approved a contract with MLCV I.T. for professional Information Technology services.

The District Representatives approved Hardship: D1-01-12-25.

The District Representatives approved Hardship: D3-02-11-25.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-62-25 (A Bill for an Act amending Title 15, chapter 4 to comprehensively reform the Band's Tribal Employment Rights Office code).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-64-25 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the Legislative Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2026).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-77-25 (A Resolution Approving Revisions to the Renovation Loan Program Policy of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Housing Department).

The District Representatives approved Nomination (A nomination from Chief Wind, nominating Gilda Burr to serve as the Commissioner of Administration).

The District Representatives approved Nomination (A nomination from Secretary-Treasurer, Boyd, nominating Amy Jensen to serve on the Institutional Investment Committee. Current term ends December 31, 2029).

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Executive Virgil Wind was not present.

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared congratulations to everyone who was sworn in today. Extra congratulations to Gilda Burr, so excited for her to come on board and be a part of executive branch; looking forward to all the great things she's going to do. She shared the District I Christmas party is tonight, doors open at 5:00 p.m. there is activities for kids, a magician, a meal, gift distribution for kids age 0-6, 7-17, and adults. Photo contest received four photos; it will be easy to manage; all band members will have an opportunity to vote on the photos when they get to the party. *She shared we will not be doing gift cards at the party; it's very time consuming and staff has to be available to handle other activities. Gift card distribution will be tomorrow Thursday, December 18, 2025 and Friday, December 19, 2025 at the Baadwewidang community center 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Also, at the Urban Office on Friday, December 19, 2025 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Merry Christmas everyone hope you have a good holiday.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared congratulations and much recognition to Gilda Burr, she stated on behalf of the Legislative Branch we understand the process was a little time consuming and we do want to apologize for that portion, there's just some things that we needed to clarify before we moved forward and we got that all situated. She was unfortunately not able to be here for the confirmation hearing process but she was able to watch it and she wants to say how much she appreciated her answers in regards to the questions that were very hard, there were tough questions and she thinks she handled those very well. Congratulations to everybody that was sworn in today. She shared she did have her Christmas party in East Lake last night we had a really great turn out and tonight will be in Chiminising starting at 5:30 p.m. again you have to be present in order to receive your gift card and we will have family photos, prizes, food, just a fun event so really excited about that.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared our District III Christmas celebration will be tomorrow Thursday, December 18, 2025 5:30 p.m. at Grand Casino Hinckley we're going to have dinner and entertainment. Youth gift cards; we will begin distributing them Friday, December 19, 2025, Monday, December 22, 2025 and Tuesday, December 23, 2025.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd shared three things.

1. Congratulations Gilda Burr, she's been around a long time, a very capable person. Logical choice for that position amongst; there's a small group of people who can do that job and she's one of them.
2. Amy Jensen appreciate the approval of Amy Jensen back on the Investment Board and he thinks membership has to know that the Investment Board consisting of Amy Jensen, Andy Christensen, and Carol Peterfuso (sp) those people do this without compensation and they meet with us a number of times a year and they provide their expertise and

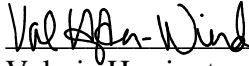
oversight of the investment advisor and through the work of this structure that has been put together by the Band and the Band can take pride in passing that foundational law that creates and enables the proper management of our investments. And the Legislative Branch here where we take care of the money, the result and the work of that structure in place has in a word expanded the financial foundation of the Band beyond gaming and he thinks that assessment is more true so when you take a look at the numbers and hopefully someday, we can share those.

3. Recent ruling by the U.S. Treasury that he would like Commissioner of Finance, Mel Towle to speak to and that coincides and works with some of the other work that the Investment group is doing, there's this number of projects that they have been going through methodically over the years and that has to do with minor trust.

Commissioner of Finance, Mel Towle gave comments about why they are taking time to speak about this topic. He stated it affects every Mille Lacs Band member at least every band member 18+. It has a positive effect on younger members as well. This message he wants to share Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe actively participated in providing input to the U.S. Treasury and to the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee. We actively helped participate where this topic ended up ending up at and how the final regulations came out. Miigwech to prior leadership who officially authorized him to speak on behalf of the Band to the U.S. Treasury and the T.T.A.C. he thinks those efforts paid off and the efforts by many others in Indian country as well. He read a prepared statement:

“The U.S. Department of Treasury and the IRS issued final regulations on December 15, 2025 concerning the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014. These regulations became effective on December 16, 2025 they clarify the tax treatment of certain Tribal General Welfare benefits and the tax status of entities wholly owned by tribal governments. The regulations reflect a significant step forward for Indian country recognizing the importance of tribal sovereignty and offering deference to tribes in defining and delivering community support. The final regulations are a result of extensive consultation with tribal leaders and the Treasury Tribal Advisory committee ensuring that they meet tribal needs and respect cultural sensitivity.” That's the statement he wanted to share the fact sheet on this subject matter alone is three pages long. He hopes there are tribal members interested in this if you are interested take a moment to go on to the internet and search “US department of Treasury Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act final regulations”. Feel free to email or reach out to Mel Towle for more information.

The next Special Band Assembly meeting is not scheduled at this time.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer